Statement II

Sl No.	Name of district on border area	No. of villages	No. of villages provided with telephone facilites upto 31.1.97	No. of Telephone Exhanges provided with STD facility	No. of villages proposed for telephone facilities during 1996-97	No. of Telephone Exchanges working in villages/ Rural areas proposed for STD facility during 1996-97
1.	Amritsar	1293	990	61	100	5
2.	Gurdaspur	1736	887	29	100	14
3.	Ferozepur	970	570	26	150	—

Scheme to expand communication network

1195. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has formulated any scheme to expand communications network in the country particularly in the State of Punjab;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The targets for installation of new telephone connections for the expansion on communication network during 1996-97 and proposed during 1997-98 are as follows:

(in lakh)

Year	For entire Country	For State of Punhab
1996-97	24.50	1.53
1997-98	29.00 (tentative)	1.69

(c) Does not arise in view of (b).

(d) Efforts are being made to achieve the targets fully by making available the resources like equipments and other infrastructures.

Telephone Exchange in Punjab

1196. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone exchanges functioning in Punjab, district-wise;

(b) the capacity of each of these exchagnes;

(c) whether Government propose to increase their capacity and make modernisation thereof; and

(d) if so, the detail thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) and (b) Total exchagnes working in Pubjab Circle are 876. The details are given in Annexure [*See* Appendix 180 Annexure No. 30]

(c) Yes, Sir. The exchanges have already been modernised and there are plans to increase the capacity.

(d) The details are given in Annexure [*See* Appendix 180 Annexure No. 30]